

Rural Transportation Advisory Committee

DRAFT Minutes May 21, 2024

The video of the meeting can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbbk3q72US8>

VOTING MEMBERS		STAFF	
Tom Egeland, Louisa County	x	Gretchen Thomas, TJPDC	x
Jim Frydl, Greene County	x	Christine Jacobs, TJPDC	x
Todd Fortune, Fluvanna County	x		
Dylan Bishop, Nelson County	x		
Sandy Shackelford, VDOT, Culpeper	x		
David Cook, VDOT, Lynchburg			
Vacant, Jaunt			
Sara Pennington, Rideshare	x		
Alberic Karina-Plun, Albemarle County	x		
ALTERNATES		GUESTS/PUBLIC	
Rick Youngblood, VDOT		Ernie Reed, Nelson County	x
JM Whalen, Fluvanna County		Carson Eckhardt, VDOT *	x
Stephanie Golon, Greene County			
Cindy King, Louisa County			
Carrie Shepherd, VDOT			
Jason Overstreet, Fluvanna County			

* *attended online via Zoom.*

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Rural Technical Advisory Committee Chair, Tom Egeland, presided and called the meeting to order at 1:011 p.m. Sara Pennington called roll.

2. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC (MINUTE 1:30):

- a. **Comments by the Public:** Ernie Reed, Nelson County, said he saw that localities may have the ability to lower speed limits. He said it is something the county may be looking at several places in Nelson. There was discussion about this issue in both Louisa and Greene Counties. At some discussion, it was recommended that this be a topic that VDOT covers at a future meeting.
- b. **Comments provided via email, online, web site, etc.:** None

Tom Egeland asked members to introduce themselves.

3. APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 28, 2023, NOTES FROM JANUARY 16, 2024 AND MARCH 19, 2024 (MINUTE 8:30)



Motion/Action: Tom Egeland made a motion to approve November and January meeting notes. Dylan Bishop seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion/Action: Tom Egeland made a motion to approve the March minutes with a correction to the David Cook paragraph. Jim Frydl seconded, and the motion passed with Dylan Bishop abstaining.

4. SMART SCALE APPLICATIONS (MINUTE 10:23)

Tom Egeland presented the committee with the Smart Scale applications they will be submitting, including Route 15 and US 250. He noted that there is another application for a roundabout at Route 15 and Route 22. Mr. Egeland noted that Smart Scale rounds 3, 4, and 5 have seen an application for a roundabout at Route 250 and Route 208. They are submitting it again in Smart Scale Round 6.

Ms. Shackelford said the Route 250 and US 250 roundabout have scored fairly well in the past and made a suggestion on some improvements to make it more competitive.

Todd Fortune noted that there are plans to build a Wawa near that intersection and wanted to make Louisa aware of those plans. Mr. Fortune remarked that there is another development planned in Louisa near this interchange as well.

Dylan Bishop presented Nelson’s applications. She said they took their application data from the VDOT Route 15 corridor improvement study and Nelson’s 2042 Comprehensive plan to create their applications.

Ms. Bishop said the first application is for Rockfish School Lane and Route 151 turn lane and will include dedicated right turn lanes in the southbound and eastbound legs.

Ms. Bishop continued with the second application for the intersection of Route 151 at Tanbark Drive for a roundabout, and she presented the benefits of this project. She presented the differences between turn lanes/sight distance improvements vs roundabout (Route 151 at Tanbark).

Jim Frydl presented the Greene County application that was submitted in rounds 3, 4, and 5 with good results, but not granted funds. They are applying for an RCUT at an intersection on Route 29 and Carpenters Mill again for Round 6. He noted that there will be other U-turn improvements included in a Route 33 project.

Alberic Karina-Plun reported on the applications for Albemarle County. The first application he presented was the US250 at Old Trail and the Western Albemarle High School intersection. The second application is for Rio Road-Hillsdale/ Old Brook Road “peanut” roundabout intersection improvements. The third application, being submitted through the MPO, is the Barracks Road Corridor improvements. The fourth application is for US29 and Plank Road intersection improvement. He noted that the other applications through MPO are the 5th Street and I64 intersection and the Improvements at Pantops.

5. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION & IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE TOPICS (MINUTE 42:49)

Nelson County

Dylan Bishop said Nelson’s comp plan has been adopted. She said the next phase is zoning and subdivision planning in July.

Louisa County

Tom Egeland said they should have an update on changes in staffing at the next meeting. They are looking at

adjusting the solar overlay cap. He said he will have more planning-related news in July. If you have questions about financials or solar, please reach out to him.

VDOT

Sandy Shackelford reminded that there is full-application training on June 4. She noted that the screenings of pre-applications will be done by that date. She also said the CTB will be approving the 6-year improvement program, which includes new funding awards. Tom Egeland asked for an update on the new funding that will begin on July 1.

Christine Jacobs reported the General Assembly agreed that meetings can now be online for up to 50% of the time. There will be more information on this and an update to the committee regulations in July.

Albemarle County

Alberic Karina-Plun reported they are still working on their comp plan. He said they have adopted their secondary 6-year plan. He said they are also working on finishing up their Smart Scale applications.

Greene County

Jim Frydl said they are working on their comp plan and working through small updates. They don't have a clear requirement for water and sewer connections, so that needs to be reviewed. He said they reviewed temporary events and reviewed performance standards for new roads and public improvements. Mr. Egeland said he would be interested in Greene County's process for temporary events. It was suggested that he present to the committee at the next meeting about that topic.

Fluvanna County

Todd Fortune said they are working on their comp plan amendment and then will be going into a full update. He noted that solar policy is a big issue. He noted that they are considering allowing solar only where the transmission lines are located. The planning commission has not signed off on it yet, but that is what is being proposed.

Tom Egeland said the proposed plan is for only 3% of the total acreage of Louisa County will be allowed to have solar. There were additional details provided on this proposal. He noted that the Board of Supervisors will have to make the final recommendation. He will have an update on this topic at the next meeting.

Jim Frydl noted that Tom Egeland has given many presentations on the solar topic.

TJPD

Sara Pennington said Rideshare is finishing up their Commuter Assistance Program. She said Rideshare also assisted VDOT with the annual Park and Ride inventory.

She also noted that in the July meeting, there will be a discussion about the virtual meeting policy and there will be elections for new officers.

Ms. Pennington said if anyone thinks of anything to discuss in future meetings, please contact her directly.

Ms. Jacobs recommended a there be a presentation on the passenger rail plans in Virginia.

Tom Egeland asked if there has been use of AI on counting parking spots. Ms. Shackelford said that probably happens at commercial truck stop centers. He asked VDOT for info on the rest stops on I-64 and whether there is a desire to increase the capacity at those rest stops.

Dylan Bishop shared that the Rural Planning Caucus will be having a conference on October 16-18. Registration will be open soon. Tom Egeland asked for a presentation on the topics covered at that conference.

8. Additional Matters from the Public (MINUTE 1:09:26)

None.

Adjourn

Tom Egeland adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

The next meeting is in person July 16, 2024 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. at the Water Street Center, 407 E Water Street, Charlottesville, VA.